

# W9RH



## M · R · A · C HAMATEUR CHATTER



Bulletin of the Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club, Inc.  
The World's Oldest Continuously Operating Radio Amateur Club.

Volume I - Number 2

January, 1950

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### AN EDITORIAL

#### The Badger State Council of Radio Clubs

Why do you come down to the club meetings? What's the purpose of a radio club anyway? Did you ever stop to give serious thought to these questions? Sure, we all know a radio club is a swell place to meet your friends; to hear a technical discussion or even see a new movie on TVI. A radio club is all that ---but it's something else too. It's a force, a powerful force, which depending on how it is used, can be directed to achieve maximum benefit for the membership and amateur radio as a whole. This force? It's the force of group action; of public relations; of interchanging ideas.

With the advent of the post-war era amateur radio faced new and more complex problems. Your national organization, the American Radio Relay League, Inc., flexed it's muscles and prepared for the battle. The League has succeeded in doing a wonderful job and don't you make any mistake about it -- if the ARRL had not built up such a fine reputation and a thorough knowledge of the Washington scene, amateur radio would not be as secure as it is today. The time has now come for the MRAC to add a major contribution to amateur radio in the Wisconsin Section. As the largest and oldest club in the State, it is only fitting that the MRAC step to the fore and accept leadership in helping formulate a state council of radio clubs as a means of combining the voices of hundreds of Wisconsin amateurs in dozens of Wisconsin radio clubs so that they may better present to the ARRL Central Division Director and League Headquarters the desires and ideas of Wisconsin radio amateurs.

Let's look at the experiences of others to see how such a group might function. In the Central Division both Illinois and Indiana have radio club councils: a state council in Indiana; a Cook County Council in Illinois. Each club in the council instructs its' elected representative what points to bring up and how to vote at the council meeting (s). Through these elected representatives to the council the wishes and ideas of the State's radio amateurs are made known to the ARRL director and abiding by the majority decision he carries those edicts to the Board meeting in May. A state hamfest or picnic would be held once a year as the main social event, enabling section amateurs to get together, chew the rag and exchange ideas, as well as have a good time.

Director Jack Doyle, W9GPI, deserves the credit for suggesting the formation of a Badger State Council. We wholeheartedly support the idea. Will we see you at a State hamfest this summer? Start the ball rolling MRAC!

M R A C HAMATEUR CHATTER

Published Monthly by the  
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs'  
Club, Inc. in the interest  
of the membership and amateur  
radio.

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President.....Ralph Koenig, W9RUF  
Vice President..Fred Zolin, W9ONY  
Secretary.....Art Vahovious, W9VSO  
Treasurer.....George Bowen, W9DWI

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Editor.....Harry Paston, W9DJV  
Business Mgr....Joe Collins, W9PYM

SUPPORT YOUR RADIO CLUB

1. Attend Meetings
2. Participate in Activities
3. Pay your dues promptly

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THE CRYSTAL BALL

Programs for coming meetings of the MRAC. Keep this issue of MRAC HAMATEUR CHATTER near your operating desk. This program listing supplants the postal cards sent out by the Secretary to announce meetings. Clarence Burke, W9KEU, Program Chairman, solicits any ideas or suggestions regarding program arrangements.

Thursday.....January 26 .....AUCTION NIGHT!!!!!!!

Presided over by that famous auctioneer, Charles Meyer, W9GVL, this is another chance to get rid of that surplus gear or obtain some new equipment at bargain prices.

Thursday.....February 2.....Mr. F. A. Franke, Sales Engineer of the Halli-crafters Company of Chicago will address the club on the topic of "Modern Communication Receivers and Standard Engineering Measurements". Be sure and attend to hear Mr. Franke on this interesting subject. Bring a friend!

MRAC MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY THURSDAY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY, EIGHTH STREET AND WISCONSIN AVENUE, AT 8:00 P. M.

GEORGE BOWEN, W9DWI, NEW MRAC TREASURER

George C. Bowen, W9DWI, was appointed Treasurer of the Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club to fill the vacancy created by the resignation, last month, of Len Benson, W9BNN, President Ralph Koenig announced. George will serve out the remainder of W9BNN's term.

Well known to all MRAC members, W9DWI, is on the Board of Directors and is a former president of the club.

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CLARENCE WAHNER, W9YYY, APPOINTED SEC.

The appointment of Clarence Wahner, W9YYY, as Section Emergency Coordinator was announced recently by SCM Reno Goetsch, W9RQM. As SEC, Clarence will be the ARRL official in the Wisconsin Section responsible for the coordination and operation of amateur radio facilities in the event of an emergency and in preparation for emergencies.

In accepting the appointment, W9YYY, urged all licensed amateurs in the Wisconsin Section who are not already members of the American Emergency Corps (AEC) to make application for membership in this organization, either as Full or Supporting Emergency stations. Emergency work is one of amateur radio's most important public services and it is essential for our own well being that all amateur radio operators belong to the AEC so that we will be able to muster a full force to meet any and all emergencies, Clarence stated.

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HARRY PASTON, W9DJV, TO BE AN ARRL ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

The resignation of Harry Paston, W9DJV/W2OAA, as Editor of MRAC HAMATEUR CHATTER was announced at the January 12th. meeting. Harry has resigned as assistant District Supervisor of the U.S. Department of Commerce Milwaukee office to assume the duties of an Assistant Secretary of the American Radio Relay League at West Hartford, Conn.

In submitting his resignation as editor, W9DJV, expressed deep regret at leaving the Wisconsin section after six years here, before and after the war. Harry will assume his new duties on February 1st. A former Easterner, W9DJV also holds the pre-war call of W2OAA.

President Ralph Koenig promised that every effort will be made to continue this bulletin started by W9DJV.

A.R.R.L.

N.E.D.A.

BEST  
WISHES

FOR A

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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AND

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CHARLES M. BROWN  
PRESIDENT

## MRAC CONTEST CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF FEBRUARY VHF CONTEST

A VHF Contest, the third in a series of contests sponsored by the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, was announced by Contest Chairman Doug Kluge, W9NKK. Scheduled for February 12th. from 10:00 to 11:00 P. M., this event is open to all amateurs, but only MAAC members will be eligible for awards.

Operation, in this affair, must be confined to 6, 2 and any higher frequencies available. Participants may use either radiotelephone or telegraphic transmission. W9NKK urges all contest participants to send their logs to him not later than February 15th. Logs postmarked after midnight of that date will not be eligible for prizes. Doug requests all operators who work in the contest to file a log to facilitate checking of contacts.

The following heading should be used as a log form:

Station Worked	Report Recd.	Contact Nr. Recd.	Rpt. Sent	Contact Nr. Sent	Time
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A sample summary of exchange would be W9GIL de W9IRM, RST 599, 10:06 P. M. (or 2205), Nr. 3.

Contest call will be "CQ TEST" and there is no limitation on power input up to the legal maximum. One point is scored for each station contacted on each band used, ie, you may work the same station on 6 and 2 for 2 points; one point for each band.

The winners will be announced at the regular MRAC meeting Thursday, February 23. The top five scores of club members will constitute the five winners. All members of the club, and non-members too, are encouraged to try and get some gear going on the vhf bands and participate in this contest.

Mail your logs to W9NKK at 5121 North Shoreland Avenue, Whitefish Bay.

Among some of the future contests being planned by Doug is a state-wide 80 meter cw qso party, and a hidden transmitter hunt in the Spring. W9NKK also hopes to be able to organize a group to participate in the ARRL Field Day in June. This group would be set up Field Day equipment more for the experience in preparing for an emergency, than to obtain a high score in the FD. Chairman Kluge hopes to attract some of the newer amateurs and embryonic hams, as well as those old timers who have never participated in an FD.

## TOM BAILEY COINS PRIZE WINNING NAME FOR MRAC BULLETIN

M R A C HAMATEUR CHATTER is the new name of your club bulletin. Submitted by Tom Bailey of Elm Grove, the title was chosen from a large number of entries by a committee of Editor W9DJV, Business Manager W9PYM and MRAC President W9RUF. Mr. Bailey's entry was chosen on the basis of originality and aptness, and he is the recipient of the prize offered for the winning name, a Stancor power transformer.

The Committee of judges extended their thanks to all club members who submitted suggestions for a bulletin name.

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## BLATZ AUDITORIUM SCENE OF JANUARY 12 MEETING OF MRAC

The palatial Blatz Auditorium played host to the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club members at the regular January 12th. meeting. Arranged by Treasurer George Bowen, W9DWI, the meeting proved to be highly successful with beer and food in abundance.

After an initial round of beers at the lengthy bar the membership adjourned to a beautifully decorated room for the club meeting. Beer was served by waitresses throughout the business meeting. Louie Wollaeger, W9ANA, discussed transmission lines and antennas, tracing their history from the multi-wire cage antennas to 3 element rotary beams. Following W9ANA's talk a buffet lunch was served. A vote of thanks to the Blatz people for an excellent evening.

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## ARRL ANNOUNCES FULL ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR WINTER-SPRING 1950

In the pages of QST and through the CD Bulletin, the ARRL has announced a number of activities for the forthcoming season. MRAC HAMATEUR CHATTER will review these activities and hopes that MRAC members will participate in your League's program. January QST contains details on these contests.

January 7-8; 14-15	-- 10 Meter WAS Party	Page 25
January 19	-- Code Proficiency Run	Page 68
January 21-22	-- VHF Sweepstakes	Page 52
January 29-30	-- CD Party (Open to CD Appointees)	Page 67
February 10-13	-- DX Contest-CW	Page 17
February 17-20	-- DX Contest-Phone	
March 10-13	-- DX Contest-CW	
March 17-20	-- DX Contest-Phone	



### OLD TIMER'S NIGHT PROVES HUGE SUCCESS

Old timers of the MRAC gathered in the Conference Room of the Milwaukee Public Library on December 29th. to help celebrate Old Timer's Night in honor of club's founder, Dr. L. S. H. Baird. Many "young squirts" participated in the meeting also.

With Old Timers' Night chairman Clarence Crapo, W9VD, as acting Chairman for the meeting, a roll call of Presidents was announced. Of the 23 Presidents who have held office since 1919, 12 were present. These were: Clarence Crapo, W9VD, 1920-1921, 1931-1932, 1940-1941; Fred Catel, W9DTK, 1926-1927, 1947-1948; F. Schunck, W9AFZ, 1927-1928; Don Siebel, Sr., W9ESF, 1928-1929; Louie Wollaeger, W9ANA, 1930-1931; Frank Moore, W9BVB, 1932-1933; Emil Felber, W9RH, 1934-1935; Charlie Meyer, W9GVL, 1937-1938; Joe Kircher, W9NRX, 1941-1942; John Scarvaci, W9GIL, 1945-1946; Ralph Koenig, W9RUF, 1946-1947, 1949-1950; George Bowen, W9DWI, 1948-1949.

Following the roll call of Presidents, Chairman Crapo introduced the club's oldest operators who were present at the gathering. Letters and cards received from those members and former members unable to attend were next read by the Chairman. These included greetings from Dr. Baird, ex-9HO, founder of the club.

Events from out of the past were recalled when Leo Topolinski, ex-W9DDG, read an article on the first ship to shore Navy radio contact and excerpts from an early Annual Report of the club; W9GVL presented a story suggesting that self-excited CW be given consideration over spark transmission and Chairman W9VD recalled the formality used in inviting new members into the MRAC, by reading an invitation, acceptance and initiation letter from an early club secretary's file. Several old timers followed with short talks on early amateur radio experiences and incidents.

"King Spark" reigned once again in the guise of Louie Wollaeger, W9ANA, who first gave a blackboard talk on theory and operation of an early spark rig and then a practical demonstration with his old rotary spark rig. There were many smiling faces as Louie keyed the rig and the smell of ozone permeated the room. Old timers recalled pleasant memories and younger club members expressed delight at witnessing the demonstration, according to comments heard afterwards.

Following adjournment of the meeting, 74 members and 20 visitors drove to Stantons Hall on Blue Mound Road for refreshments and rag-chewing. The Sentinel and Journal both carried a story and picture on the MRAC Old Timers' Night.

(Our thanks to W9VD for the details of the meeting. Space does not permit our publishing the names of those old timers present. W9VD has a list for the information of any interested member.

# HAMS

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"WHA' HAPPENED".

Compiled from the minutes of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc. for the information of the membership.

December 15, 1949 - The first issue of the MRAC Bulletin was displayed to the assembly by Business Manager Collins. Vice President Zolin made a request that all members furnish him with any information they may have on the activities and events of the club for the past ten years which would be suitable for newspaper publication. One of the local papers has promised a feature story if enough news can be gathered.

An interesting talk on Western Union Carrier Systems was given by Mr. George Hoffstetter, W9JC, who came from Chicago to address the club.

December 22, 1949 - President Koenig announced that George Bowen, W9DWI, will fill in as Treasurer for the remainder of Len Benson's term. A discussion was initiated by Assistant Central Division Director Collins to advise Director Doyle regarding the club's feeling on the revised FCC proposals (Docket 9295).

The winners of the Club's second Ten Meter Contest were announced and awarded certificates. These were:

- 1st. Place - W9RKP and W9FDX
- 2nd. Place - W9CIO, W9GIL, W9IZO
- 3d. Place - W9NKK
- 4th. Place - W9GPI
- 5th. Place - W9VSO

President Koenig discussed the Club bulletin and requested members to mail items of interest to Editor Paston.

The speaker for the evening was Mr. Roger Zaun, W9UVV, formerly with the Thorndanson Corp. He gave an interesting lecture and demonstration on a new type of speech amplifier.

December 29, 1949 - Old Timers' Night. Reported elsewhere in this issue.

January 5, 1950 - W9RKP reported on the large number of stations who have key clicks. Equipment Night was highlighted by W9JBI's fine display of home built equipment. Commercial in design and appearance, Chet had such items as a grid dip meter, convertor and noise silencer on display

January 12, 1950 - The meeting was held at the Blatz Auditorium. Harry Paston, W9DJV, announced his resignation as bulletin editor and his association with the ARRL as an Assistant Secretary. He expressed the hope that the Bulletin would continue. Fred Zolin, W9ONY, reported on how amateur radio was aiding a nine year old Milwaukee boy recover from Leukemia. QSLs from amateurs the world over were helping to cheer the sick lad. Fred made a motion to make this boy an Associate Member of MRAC. The motion was seconded and passed by the club.

Other details are reported elsewhere in this issue.

TECHNICAL TOPICS

Paging through the radio magazines, we often come across interesting technical articles of such nature that we feel they should be brought to the attention of amateurs everywhere. In this issue of MRAC HAMATEUR CHATTER we present some information on selectivity.

June, 1949 issue of CQ has an interesting article on page 21 by W3HH/W1RBK describing an audio filter built around the well known FL-8 filter unit available on the surplus market. For those of you who are using the FL-8 as is, incorporating it into this piece of equipment will really open your ears to the selectivity which can be obtained through use of an audio filter.

July, 1949 issue of QST presents an excellent article on the FL-8 filter also. Written by W6DVE, it is a comprehensive article entitled "Audio Filters for Eliminating QRM". See page 51. The ARRL, through the pages of QST, has been waging a continuous war on QRM through increased selectivity. Almost any issue of QST for the past few years will disclose some article on increasing selectivity through various methods. Check the index in December issues of QST. Or perhaps some club member can recall the long lost formula which will make the Old Man's famous QRM eliminator, the Wouff Houg, once more function to kill interference.

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QRT de W9DJV

As this issue goes to press word reaches us that the MRAC HAMATEUR CHATTER will probably be perpetuated through a combination editorship. Details will be forthcoming at future club meetings. It is our fervent hope that all of you recognize the importance of a club bulletin as a means of better knitting the club together, a means of distributing information to all and an instrument for interchange of ideas with other clubs throughout Wisconsin and the nation. Your League firmly and strongly supports this type of club activity. We hope that you will do likewise. All members who have any flair for writing; any information that might be included in a bulletin, should help support it by actively participating in its publication. So far, requests for news and information to be published in these pages have met with poor response. Of course we realize that this is a new undertaking, but please fellows, give your new editor or editors your strong support so that the MRAC HAMATEUR CHATTER may continue throughout the years.

Best wishes to our successor and to the MRAC. 73 to all of you. We'll be ready to serve you from League headquarters anytime and hope to work you on the air.

# SPRING HOUSECLEANING AT W9SYT'S

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YESSIR! -Overstocked and overcrowded-we gotta make room,  
So out goes the stuff at lowest prices. SAVE NOW!-BUY NOW!

Study this list carefully, and buy now for future needs

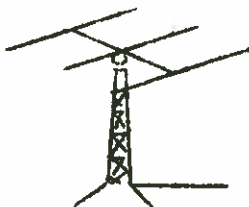
Hookup wire 100 ft. - 69¢  
RG8/U coax. per foot - 5¢  
Bendix insulators - 15¢ each.  
Vibrator transformers - 98¢  
Regular \$1.40 HD screwdriver - 60¢  
3-4mc coils, poly form - 5¢ each  
6-20 mc IF in can - 30¢ - 4/\$1.00  
1700kc " " " " " "  
465 kc " " " 59¢  
Barrier strips, 3 terminal - 10¢-3/25¢  
Hi voltage micas-many sizes-39¢ up.  
Min. hearing aid xformers (1s4 output)  
Mike to grid Xnfrs. 69¢  
Ceramic octal sockets - 9¢ - 3/25¢  
17x13x2 Chassis - \$1.15  
17x11x2 " 99¢  
(Others, all sizes & types)  
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1N21 Crystal diodes - 75¢  
5BP4 CR TV tube - \$4.98  
DPDT Ant. relay, 28vdc coils - 69¢  
VHF RF Chokes 2 for 5¢  
Dynamotors, 6volt in, 275v. 60 ma out \$3.98  
Transformers.....  
275V. 40 Ma. 5V, 6.3V - \$1.98  
400V. 180Ma. 5V, 6.3V - \$4.98  
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BUGS!!! Special price on Speed-X-keys.  
New 1950 ARRL handbook is in. Get yours now. Also new Hints & Kinks, Logs, etc.

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1/2"	.058	1.45
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